

THE EASTSIDE EXAMINER

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SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday morning worship (Bible Study) 9:30 AM
Sunday morning worship (Preaching) 10:30 AM
Sunday evening worship (Preaching) 4:00 PM
Wednesday evening worship (Bible Study) .. 7:00 PM

Editor's Note: The Eastside Church of Christ had a time set aside for Doy Moyer, a visiting preacher, to present a series of lessons. This was schedule to be April 5-9 with services at 7 pm Monday through Thursday. However, as a result of concerns about the contagiousness of the Coronavirus that is going almost literally around the world, the church here decided the prudent thing to do was too cancel this planned series of lessons. So, since you will not be able to come and hear a lesson from the preacher who was scheduled to present these lessons, here is some of his writing for you to consider.

HONEST STUDY

By Doy Moyer

Most people are familiar with the parable generally referred to as the "good Samaritan" (Luke 10:30-36). We usually refer to it to show what true compassion is, and how we should be willing to respond to the needs of others. The parable certainly does show this. However, the parable, together with its context, teaches more than just how to be compassionate. It teaches us how to be honest in our Bible study.

A lawyer tested Jesus, asking, "teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25). A lawyer, in the scriptures, was one who was skilled in, and taught, the law of Moses. The man knew the answer to the question. Jesus responded with a question: "what is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" (vs. 26). Whenever we are searching for the truth, the only way to find it is by reading the scriptures! Today, we might ask, "what does the Bible say?" what better question can be asked when one is searching for truth? Just open the Bible and see what it says.

The lawyer answered correctly by stating the foundation of God's will: love God with all of your heart, soul, strength and mind, and your neighbor as yourself (vs. 27). Jesus responded, "you have answered rightly; do this and you will live" (vs. 28). Again, the man knew the answer. He quoted what the law said. And Jesus told him, "that's right. Now go and do it." this is the essence of doing God's will. Find out what God says in his word and do it. It's just that simple! There is no complicated process involved. You don't need any specialized clergy to tell you what God says. Just read

the Bible and do what He says to do.

But here is where the lawyer began to have problems. He knew what God said, but if he did not know how to apply what was said, then he didn't need to do it. "but he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, 'and who is my neighbor?'" (vs. 29). This is too much of a problem today. Instead of taking what God says and doing it, we want to find ways to justify not doing what he says. The trouble, in these cases, is not that we cannot understand the will of God. The trouble is that we do not want to bring our own will into submission to God's will. So, we find a convenient way to justify our inaction.

It is in response to the lawyer's effort to justify himself that Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan. Jesus' intention was not so much to issue a statement on compassion as it was to illustrate the lawyer's need to be honest with himself and simply do what God says. The parable illustrated the need for honesty when looking into the will of God.

After telling the parable, Jesus asked who the neighbor was. The man said, "he who showed mercy on him." to this Jesus responded, "go and do likewise" (vs. 37). Again, Jesus was basically saying, "that's right. Now go and do it." he was showing that it is not all that difficult to apply God's will to our lives. We can understand it, and we can do it. It just takes diligence and honesty.

If we are not honest when we study the Bible, then we will not be able to properly do God's will. There have been studies where people refused to open the Bible to a particular verse (such as Acts 2:38). They knew what it said, but they simply did not want to face what it said. In order to justify not being baptized, many will come up with a hypothetical situation to justify their own disobedience. "what about the man who is on his way to be baptized and a rock falls on him and kills him?" this is supposed to negate the fact that they must be baptized. All such efforts are only efforts at self-justification. Wouldn't it be much easier to find out what the Bible teaches and just do it?

Simplified, Luke 10:25-37 teaches us that we need to look into the will of God, find out exactly what is said, and do just that. It takes honest Bible study, as well as honest self-examination (cf. 2Cor. 13:5). When we know what the Bible says, we need to abandon any efforts at self-justification and submit ourselves completely to the will of God. As we study the scriptures, we need to hear these words of Jesus: "do this and you will live."

SERVING GOD, A CHOICE

By Jerry L. Henderson

We all have the ability to choose between serving God and serving the Devil (that is really the only choices available). The ability to choose between good and evil has always been within the grasp of each person, God built that ability into man in the beginning. Man could obey or disobey God Gen 2:16-17, "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: -- But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Man chose to disobey and suffered punishment from God .

The fact that the choice to serve God is an individual responsibility is established by a statement made by Joshua in the Old Testament. Josh 24:15, And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the Gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the Gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. The fact is that you HAVE made a choice, the question we need to ask ourselves is HAVE I MADE THE CHOICE TO SERVE GOD?